Madison Dolecki

An experience of diversity in my educational life that stands out to me took place during my freshman year at Iona College. Coming from a predominately Caucasian, small town in Connecticut, being in a city in New York was a shock in itself. Being at Iona introduced me to people with similar backgrounds as me as well as many individuals of different religions, ethnicities and upbringings. Since I did not attend public school until eighth grade, my exposure to diversity was limited. However, once I attended public school, it was clear to me that the small school in the Northwest corner of Connecticut was not going to bring more diversity to my education.

Being at Iona the first year of my college experience opened my eyes to people from all different lifestyles. I met people who had parents that came to America from different countries, individuals who were bilingual, and people who grew up in the city. This experience allowed me to become more understanding and accepting in seeing how everyone has a different background and aspects such as race, gender or religion are what make everyone different. I am glad I had this experience because growing up in a town where mostly everyone is Caucasian and of the middle class did not provide me with much diversity which is necessary to be an informed member of society.